FISCAL MEMORANDUM HB 434 - SB 901

January 17, 2008

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (011859): Creates a new circuit court judgeship in the 22nd Judicial District (Giles, Lawrence, Maury and Wayne counties) effective September 1, 2008. The judgeship will be filled by election at the August, 2008 general election for an eight-year term. The amendment does not authorize additional assistant district attorney or assistant public defender positions.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures - \$327,500 Recurring \$23,000 One-Time

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$364,800/Recurring \$23,000/One-Time

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- Recurring expenditures of \$364,777 include the salaries, benefits and operational expenditures for a circuit court judge, court reporter (required for criminal cases) and secretarial staff, effective July 1, 2008. Total cost per position is allocated 57% to salary (\$207,923) and 43% to benefits (\$156,854). One-time expenditures of \$23,000 include the computer equipment, books, etc. for the judge and secretarial staff.
- The creation of this court will not result in any additional assistant district attorney (ADA) or assistant public defender (APD) positions. The 22nd District currently has eight ADAs and six APDs. Even with the creation of this court, the eight ADA positions will exceed the statutory minimum per court provided in Tenn. Code Ann. § 16-2-508. There is no statutory minimum per court for APDs. Additional ADA or APD positions cannot be created or funded absent statutory authorization.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

James W. White, Executive Director

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